4/2/75: Just spoke with Jerry Policoff. He told me he had spoken with George O'Toole yesterday, either at the taping of the "Tomorrow" show or before, and somehow Jerry brought my name up. O'Toole asked "Oh, is that the kid from Florida?", and Jerry asked him how he knew of me. O'Toole said he is a good friend of Cy Hersh, that he had on occasion been a source for Hersh when he (O'T) was CIA. O'Toole said that one day about a month ago Hersh called him up and asked him to come into the office to look at something he had. When O'Toole arrived, Hersh handed him the letters I had sent him, my correspondence with Belin. Upon handing it over, Hersh said to O'Toole, "You know, you people may be nuts, but you're intelligent nuts." He asked O'Toole to look over the letters and tell Hersh what he thought he should do with them. O'Toole said something to the effect that he knew what he should do with them, but he also knew what he was going to do with them because the TIMES is anti-critic. Hersh agreed that the paper would do nothing with the letters. This is all Jerry knew.

This fascinates me. Apparently Hersh took the time to read what I sent him, which included over 25 pages in all, letters and supporting documents, including pages from Belin's book. Why would he call O'Toole in if he knew the paper would not go for it? I'd like to believe that Hersh was impressed with the material.

HR

4/18--O'Toole has sinced confirmed this to me personally. He says he's interssted in my book and wants to help promote it, and is taking some steps already, including something in the works involving Belin and Bud. I fear treading with these types, but also feel I have little alternative other than to see what they can do to help and tread carefully. My book is out, although I've not yet received copies. Will speak to my publisher next week about promotion, though I doubt if they have anything planned, and I'm severely limited in what I can do outside of Gainesville. Also, promotion will do no good unless they print more than the 2,000 of the first printing, so I have to get on their backs right away to convince them of the ever-expanding market. I'm trying to hold off on promotion here until the bookstores get the book (they've ordered), but I couldn't avoid one TV debate (my first!) with head of political science dept here. I clobbered him, and got good reviews. The station wants me back for more. In the meantime, I've never had more schoolwork, including writing for law review, and I was trying to get a job with the Center For Governmental Responsibility, affiliated with the Law School! Don't think I'll be able to do that now.

All told, I've never been so busy. Keep in touch, please. Best to you and Lil.

Howard